

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-13 are all the claims presently pending in this application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 5 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Jachowsky. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection in light of the following remarks.

One aspect of the present invention is that the end of the dividing face between mutually adjoining side ring pieces (in the side rings forming the side-wall portion and the bead portion) is defined to a particular position when a pneumatic tire comprising a bead guard having a sectional shape of a trapezoid is vulcanized in a split-type mold.

Claim 1 specifically recites adjoining side ring pieces annularly dividing the side ring and located at a side of a tire shaping face, in a place corresponding to a depressing portion forming a bead guard. Claim 6 specifically recites two or more side ring pieces, the depressing portion for forming a bead guard being formed in at least two adjoining side ring pieces, an edge of a divided face between side ring pieces positioned in the depressing portion.

In contrast, Jachowsky discloses a segmented tread section of a mold, not a segmented side ring. That is, Jachowsky is concerned with a segmented tread section of the mold, not a segmented side ring as defined in the present invention. Further, the interfaces 2 between segments extend "substantially parallel to a plane of rotation," and (as clearly shown in Fig. 1) extend through the portion of the mold used to form the tire tread. This is completely different from the mold system and method recited in the instant claims. Also, the interface 2 between the partial profiled segments disclosed in Jachowsky includes a surface on the partial profiled segment having irregular and non-planar surface patterns conforming with each other, which is entirely different from the dividing faces of the present invention.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the present invention could not have been easily conceived from the tire-vulcanizing mold of Jachowsky forming the tire tread pattern, at least not without the proscribed use of hindsight.


AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111  
U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/089,545

ART UNIT 1734  
Q69266

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees (except the Issue/Publication Fees) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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